

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 EUR-08 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 19

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AOUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1489

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2985

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, XO, MY

SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA

REF: A. STATE 123690; B. KUALA LUMPUR 2145, 5/9/74; C. KUALA
LUMPUR 1429, 4/1/74

1. MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT (GOM) HAS BEEN PUBLICLY SILENT IN
RECENT MONTHS ON DIEGO GARCIA AND INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE.
MOST RECENT AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN ZONE
OF PEACE WAS CONTAINED IN SPEECH OF THEN MALAYSIAN PERMREP TO
UN, TAN SRI SARDON JUBIR, ON OCTOBER 1, 1974, AS FOLLOWS:

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"MY GOVERNMENT...VIEWS WITH GRAVE CONCERN AND DEEPLY DEPLORE

THE INCREASING MILITARY AND NAVAL ACTIVITIES OF THE MAJOR POWERS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. ADHERENCE TO AND RESPECT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION FOR A ZONE OF PEACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BY THE MAJOR POWERS IS A NECESSARY IMPERATIVE." ON APRIL 24, 1974, PRIME MINISTER RAZAK TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT "THE GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS ALL EFFORTS TO MAKE THE INDIAN OCEAN A ZONE OF PEACE, FREE FROM FOREIGN NAVAL ACTIVITY PARTICULARLY ACTIVITY CONCEIVED IN CONTEXT OF MAJOR POWER RIVALRY." REFERRING TO THE "INIMICAL" EFFECTS OF MAJOR POWER RIVALRY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, PM RAZAK CONTINUED: "MALAYSIA DEPLORES THE INCREASE OF ALL FOREIGN NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND THIS STAND HAS BEEN MADE KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY." GOM HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED UN RESOLUTIONS ON IOZP WHICH INCLUDE REFERENCES TO FOREIGN MILITARY BASES AND NAVAL ACTIVITY.

2. MEDIA COMMENT ON IOZP AND DIEGO GARCIA HAS BEEN SIMILARLY UNHELPFUL. GOVT-INFLUENCED MALAYSIAN PRESS HAS PLAYED UP NEGATIVE COMMENTS OF OTHERS IN ABSENCE OF STATEMENTS FROM OWN LEADERS. FOR EXAMPLE, LEADING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY "NEW STRAITS TIMES" MAY 27, 1975 FRONTPAGED AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY PM CAIRN'S STATEMENT THAT INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE FREE FROM FOREIGN INTERFERENCE.

3. ON FEB 6, 1974, GOM FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN PUBLICLY "REGRETTED" THE US-UK DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH DIEGO GARCIA BASE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION (K.L. 488, 2/7/74). AT THE SAME TIME, GOM HAS NEVER TAKEN US TO TASK PUBLICLY FOR TRANSIT OF MALACCA STRAIT BY U.S. WARSHIPS DESTINED FOR OR COMING FROM INDIAN OCEAN, BUT LACK OF PUBLIC COMMENT SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE CONSTRUED AS SIGNAL THAT MALAYSIAN VIEWS ON INDIAN OCEAN (AND DIEGO GARCIA) HAVE SOFTENED. ON OTHER HAND, SOME GOM CIVILIAN SECURITY OFFICIALS PRIVATELY HAVE INDICATED THEIR LACK OF CONCERN OVER U.S.-UK ACTIVITIES IN INDIAN OCEAN; ALSO, WE ARE AWARE THERE IS SOME WORRYING IN MILITARY CIRCLES OVER ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET FLEET IN AREAS, INCLUDING INDIAN OCEAN, NEAR MALAYSIAN SHORES. HOWEVER, THESE ARE NOT TUDGIBLE EXPRESSIONS OF GOM POLICY THAT WOULD BE OF USE TO US IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS. CONFIDENTIAL

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WE WOULD, THEREFORE, CHARACTERIZE OFFICIAL GOM POSITION ON IOZP AND DIEGO GARCIA AS UNFAVORABLE.

4. FURTHER EMBASSY COMMENT ON GOM ATTITUDES TOWARD IOZP AND DIEGO GARCIA ARE CONTAINED IN REFS B AND C. UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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